



Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, August 30, 2026

LOVE FIRST, LOVE ALL

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Dalton. We are glad you are here!

Stay In Touch! First Presbyterian has multiple Communication Channels in addition to Face-to-Face Contact. Check them often.

- Telephone: **706-278-8161**
- U.S.P.O.: **Box 489, Dalton, GA 30722**
- E-Mail: **office@firstpresdalton.org**
- Facebook Public Page:
First Presbyterian Church Dalton
- Facebook for FPC Members:
FPC Dalton Connect
- Weekly Newsletter: **Midweek News**-sent by E-Mail unless a paper copy is requested by calling 706-278-8161

What is that person's name? Find current contact information for our members in the church directory, available on our website (www.firstpresdalton.org) under the "fellowship tab." Please email the church office for the directory password. Also, it is perfectly acceptable to ask someone's name, even if it's for the fifth or sixth time.

We have several traditions within our service during which physical contact—shaking hands, joining hands, handing an item—may be an option. If, for any reason, you are uncomfortable with this kind of contact, feel free to refrain from participating. Know that our congregation is respectful and recognizes that our members and guests have different needs and comfort levels. We seek to be a "Non-Judgement Zone."

WI-FI



Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the church. There are two options available: First Pres Guest 2.4 and First Pres Guest 5. Although these will connect to the same network, 2.4 has more strength while 5 has more range. The location of the device will influence which one will automatically connect. The password for the guest network is **johncalvin**.

Announcements

• As a result of the action by the congregation, Hilliard Jolly and Alice Ensley will serve on the **Elder Nominating Committee**. Also by Session selection, Mike Brown will join with them to complete the team. In the coming weeks, the ENC will solicit elder nominations and prayerfully consider all names they receive. If you have someone you would like to nominate as an elder, please contact one of the members of the ENC, or Pastor Nicole. Let us add to our prayers these three as they begin their important discernment process.

• Join us for our **Ladies' Luncheon** on Wednesday, September 2nd at 11:30 a.m. at Applebee's. This is a great opportunity for the women of our church to fellowship as we break bread together. We meet at a different venue on the first Wednesday of every month, so make this part of your regular routine as we tour the town like the great "foodies" we are! Please contact Mary Hubbs at 706-280-4017 if you plan to attend this time around, and we'll see you there!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

THE GREETING

At the sound of the bells, please prepare your heart and mind for Worship.

INTROIT

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

John Bacchus Dykes
(1823-1876)

*Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all thy quickening powers;
Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Katie O’Gwin

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
**Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered...
**He spread a cloud for a covering
and fire to give light by night.**
They asked, and he brought quails
and gave them food from heaven in abundance.
**He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed through the desert like a river.**
For he remembered his holy promise
and Abraham, his servant.
**So he brought his people out with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of mystery and might, whose wonderful works are to be
remembered, move in our lives, change our minds, soften our hearts,
direct our feet, that we may follow you more faithfully. Yes, Lord, we seek
to follow Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Cover Art:

Burning Bush, from
Art in the Christian
Tradition, a project of
the Vanderbilt Univer-
sity Divinity Library,
Nashville, TN. [https://
act.library.vanderbilt.
edu/artworks/55946](https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/55946)
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[https://www.flickr.
com/photos/earsare-
good/3564534366/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/earsare-good/3564534366/).

The Call to Worship is
from Psalm 105.

*Where you see this
notation, please rise in
body or in spirit.

Hymn 49 Note:
Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the Yigdal, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

***HYMN 49**
The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

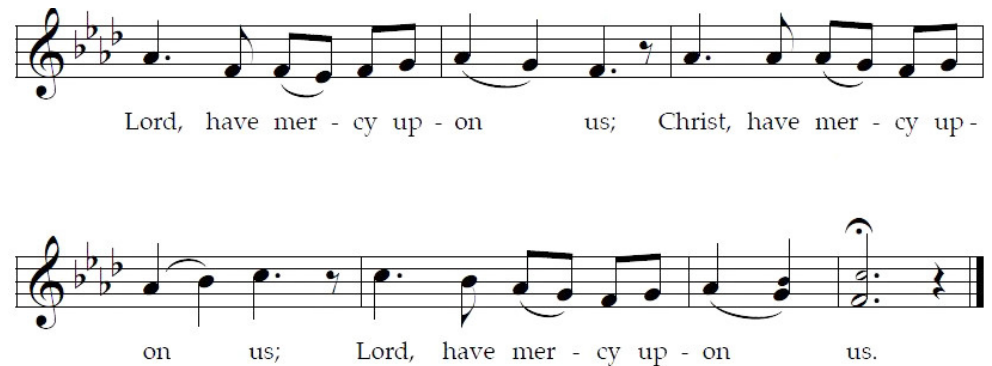
God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds not on divine things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation.

Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is Jesus' forgiving name we pray. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Kyrie Eleison



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

Gloria Patri

S Selvidge Street



Glor - y be to God the Fath - er, and to the Son: and to the Hol - y Ghost; As it
was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be:
world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me!

William B. Bradbury

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 3:1-15

NRSVUE

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up.” ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵ Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹² He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

¹³ But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I am has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

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SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 12:9-21

NRSVUE

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

God Be in My Head

Walford Davies
(1869-1941)

*God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 16:21-28

NRSVUE

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

27 “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Listen, Follow, and Love” Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 438

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me Toplady

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being born in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God, “Jesus Christ is Lord!” Amen.

- Philippians 2:5-11

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE OFFERING & RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Please place this week’s page of the Friendship Register in the plate, along with your tithes and offerings, so that we may keep you informed about the life and ministry of this community of faith.

You may also give online at www.firstpresdalton.org/giving/

THE OFFERTORY

Hymn 438 Note:

Though scholars discredit the story that this hymn was written when the author found shelter under a large rock during a thunderstorm, the popular appeal of that conjecture perhaps lies in the energy of this plea and the vividness of its imagery drawn from many biblical sources.

Offering Note:

Copy and paste the link under the Offering onto your browser to easily submit your online offering or scan the QR code below.



Hymn 826 Note:

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ’s own forever.

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 826**

Lift High the Cross

Crucifier

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Traditional

**God be with you till we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

***POSTLUDE**



Contact FPC

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PO Box 489 • Dalton, Georgia 30722

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flower Guild
8/30	Katie O’Gwin	The Youth	Joanne Lewis
9/6	Laura Allgood	Robert & Rachel Smalley	Robyn Bryant
9/13	Jeff Granillo	Nancy Farrow & Laura Goins	Margaret Venable

MONTHLY

Communion (September 6)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Kathryn Sellers	August	Mary Hubbs	August	Eric & Lena Haugen
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Kathy Bridges Annelle Scott & Mary Ellen Gurley	September	Bobbie Anderson	September	Walter & Jeane Jones

Cover Art Note: Entitled “The Burning Bush”, this photograph was produced by long exposure photographic effects of sparks in a tree, not harmful to the tree. Photo by earsaregood.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 30
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Staff Team Meeting
11:30 a.m.
Monday, August 31
Lunch Bunch
noon
Tuesday, September 1
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 2
Ladies Luncheon
11:30 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 3
Presbyterian at the Pub
5:00 p.m.
Knitting Group
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Friday, September 4
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 6
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Monday, September 7
Church Office Closed
Tuesday, September 8
CLILA Food Boxes
10:00 a.m. - noon
Saturday Sacks
10:30 a.m.
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 9
Worship Team Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 10
Knitting Group
5:30-7:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

For Family and Friends of Those Who Joined the Church Triumphant:

Jean Strain;

Muriel Phillips;

John Law;

Anne Sims;

Stan Cranford;

Charles Allgood;

Wayne Alderman;

For Healing, Comfort, and Ongoing Concerns for our Members:

Bjorn Jiskoot;

Peggy Rollins;

Sue Spivey;

Walter Jones;

Nancy Rhine;

For Family and Friends of the Following Members:

Nicole Jiskoot, Jon Ballast and family;

Leanna Granillo, Robert Stromberg;

Mary Ellen Gurley, Dusty Eggleston and family; Tommy Brooks and family;

Janice Sims, Sharon and Debbie Bragg, Rodger and Brenda Boswell, Patsy Townsend; the family of

Karen Vaught; the family of Flosy Beard;

Kaye Clark, Becky Hansberry;

Kathy Bridges and Sue Spivey, Emily Bringardner;

For the Larger Community and the World:

Pete Wilson;

Arden Brown;

Those affected by climate disasters;

Peace in Iran, Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine;

The victims and families of victims of substance abuse;

The victims of gun violence;

Caregivers and aging parents.

Praises and Continuing Prayers:

For expectant mothers: Hye Jeong Kwon, Lucy Partain Brown and Emma Ensley;

The Elder Nominating Committee, as they begin their work;

For all our members and visitors, we offer our thanks to God.